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Elements of Political Science. By STEPHEN LEACOCK, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, McGill University. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1906. Pp. ix, 417.)

Professor Leacock's book is compounded of history, public law, political philosophy and economics. The leading facts and principles from these several fields, in so far as they relate to the nature of the State, the structure of government, and the province of government—the book being divided into these three parts—are skillfully woven together. Where the breadth is necessarily so great, it would be unfair to expect intensive treatment, the absence of which is the inevitable characteristic of a book of this kind. Yet here and there the author permits himself such treatment with results which are almost uniformly admirable.

The discussion of sovereignty, in the first third of the book, is of much interest. Accepting Professor Burgess' definition of sovereignty alone, in his opinion, is worthy of adoption by political science. He says: "The particular set of persons in a modern State who are invested with unlimited law-making power are a definite and findable body. The particular person, a set of persons, whose will in reality is supreme, fades upon analysis into a vague complexity." The "legal sovereignty" is acceptable because ascertainable; the 'political sovereignty' unacceptable because not capable of ascertainment.

The good features of the book are numerous. One or two illustrations of the author's happy thought may be given. In speaking of the function of the political party in the United States he says: "It is possible, indeed, to look upon the singularly systematic and powerful growth of the party system in the United States as a sort of 'natural' evolution consequent upon the attempt to keep apart the powers of government, an attempt, as it were, on the part of nature to rectify an error in organic structure, a process analogous to the treating of a fractured limb." And of woman's suffrage he says: "What has happened has been negative rather than positive. Until recent times only a very small part of the men of the community had the right to vote. It is more accurate to say that the women have never been admitted than that they have been expressly excluded."

In addition to the defects almost inseparable from such a book as this—here the elaboration of principle at the expense of fact, there of fact at the expense of principle—there appear to be some faults, though but few, of the separable variety. Of the latter class is the contention that the governor and chief State officials should be regarded as a unit and not as a plural executive. Of the former, a good illustration is found on p. 374 where the author, after having stated that the Marxian theory of surplus value is open to attack in that it attributes to labor the whole of the productive result, and does not allot a share to the machine, remarks that it is impossible to enter into the economic discussion to which this question gives occasion. Limitation in the discussion, of course, is necessary, but it is evident that it is sometimes at a price.

HAROLD M. BOWMAN.

National Administration of the United States. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE, Ph.D. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1905. Pp. 274.)

Local Government in the Counties, Towns and Villages. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE, Ph.D. (New York: The Century Company. The American State Series. 1906. Pp. 279.)

The first of these two works is in a sense a ground breaker. It is the first attempt to describe in a systematic, detailed way the administrative mechanism of our national government. It is an account of the organization of the central administration with its nine great executive departments and their numerous subdivisions as they now stand, after more than a century of adaptation and growth. Only so much of history is introduced as is necessary to the understanding of the present system.

The tardy appearance of the first book in this field shows how badly the study of government has been neglected in America—especially government on its administrative side. In fact, the scientific study of administration did not begin until 1893, when Goodnow's *Comparative Administrative Law* appeared, dealing partly with American conditions. It was not until 1903 that the first book bearing the title of *American Administrative Law* made its appearance.

In no other single country has the work of the constructive statesman been more bold, original and fruitful in the last one hundred and